

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-05
SS-15 OC-06 CCO-00 SIG-02 SSO-00 L-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00
DODE-00 /083 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. BROWN (INFO)
H- MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MS. GRIFFIN
S/S - MR.SEBASTIAN
NEA/IAA-MR. SMITH
NEA/EGY - MR NEWBERRY
-----162329Z 069994 /72-61

O 162254Z FEB 77 ZFF5
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
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USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR
INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - FEBRUARY 16

THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE HAD BEEN PROVIDED
TO THE SPOKESMAN PRIOR TO THE ABOVE NOON BRIEFING BUT WAS
NOT USED:

Q. IS IT TRUE AS REPORTED ON CBS TODAY THAT THE ISRAELI
NAVY HAS ONCE AGAIN ATTEMPTED TO PREVENT AN AMERICAN OIL
COMPANY FROM DRILLING IN GULF OF SUEZ TERRITORY LEASED
FROM THE EGYPTIANS?

A. AS YOU KNOW, SUCH INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED FROM TIME TO
TIME. WE ARE HOPEFUL THESE QUESTIONS CAN BE WORKED OUT.
IT IS TRUE THAT AN ISRAELI PATROL CRAFT HAS OBJECTED
THAT AN AMOCO OPERATION IN THE GULF INVOLVES WORK ON THE
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EASTERN SIDE OF THE MEDIAN LINE THAT THE ISRAELIS CLAIM
IN THE GULF. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT THE U.S. AND ISRAEL
HAVE NOT REACHED AGREEMENT ON A VARIETY OF POINTS CON-
CERNING THE APPLICABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO THE
EXPLOITATION OF OIL RESOURCES IN THE GULF OF SUEZ. DIS-
CUSSIONS CONTINUE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ON THESE

POINTS BUT AS USUAL I AM NOT ABLE TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS
OF THESE DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES.

Q. HAS ISRAEL IMPOSED A DEADLINE FOR THE DURATION OF THE
WORK IN QUESTION?

A. I UNDERSTAND THERE IS NO DEADLINE.

Q. IS THE ISRAELI OBJECTION THAT THE RIG IS POSITIONED ON
THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE MEDIAN LINE?

A. I UNDERSTAND THE AMERICAN RIG IS NEAR THE SO-CALLED

MEDIAN LINE OF THE GULF, BUT ON THE WESTERN SIDE AND THAT THE ISRAELI CONCERN HAS TO DO WITH ANCHOR LINES EXTENDING TO THE EAST.

Q. CAN'T YOU AT LEAST SAY WHAT THE GENERAL U.S. POSITION IS ON EXPLOITATION OF SUCH RESOURCES?

A. OUR VIEWS ARE ALREADY ON THE RECORD, AND I DO NOT WANT TO GET ANY FARTHER INTO THAT AT THIS POINT, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THIS IS THE SUBJECT OF CONTINUING BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

Q. IS IT TRUE SECRETARY VANCE IS DISCUSSING THIS WITH THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENTS?

A. THESE ARE ONLY SOME OF THE MANY ISSUES WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE THE SUBJECT OF SOME DISCUSSION DURING UNCLASSIFIED

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SECRETARY VANCE'S TRIP BUT THEY ARE BY NO MEANS THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS ON HIS AGENDA.

HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE035704
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EOJONES:DP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770056-0021
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770234/aaaabekh.tel
Line Count: 144
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e7dea1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3303632
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - FEBRUARY 16 THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO THE SPOKESMAN PRIOR TO THE ABOVE NOON BRIEFING
TAGS: PFOR, XF
To: CAIRO TEL AVIV MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e7dea1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
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22 May 2009
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